

# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Published from time to time for the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association  
January 1962

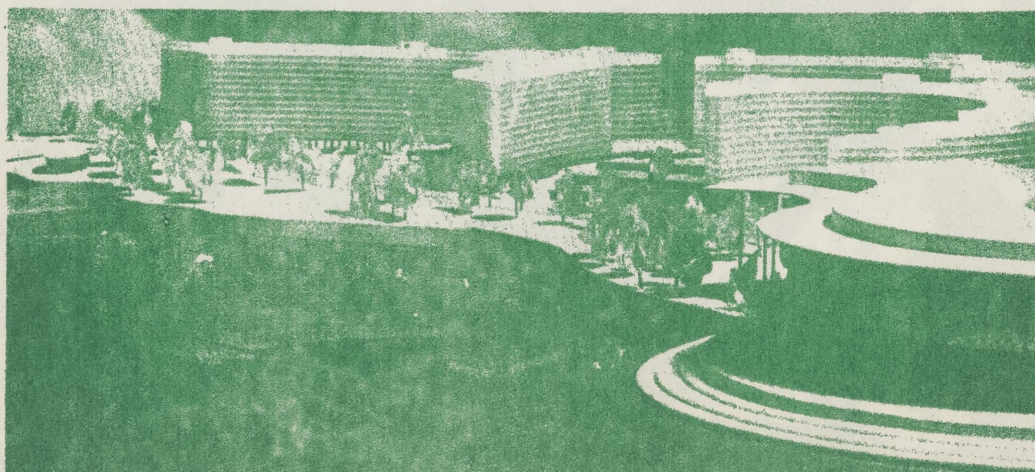
## WATER GATE TOWN

The President of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association delegated your editor to represent the organization at the October hearing of the District Zoning Commission on the proposed Watergate Development. The Association at its October meeting had passed a motion which took the position of "not opposing" the zoning appeal requested by Island Vista, Inc., of Washington, which is associated in the project with Societa Generale Immobiliare of Rome.

At the hearing, a group of spokesmen for the project covered many phases of the proposal -- its legal and physical aspects, its advantages to the District and to Foggy Bottom, its esthetic appeal. They showed models and charts that depicted both the development as it would appear if zoning exceptions were allowed, and the structures that the corporation could build under present zoning restrictions, if the exceptions requested were not allowed.

The 10-acre plot is bounded by Virginia Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, F Street, and Rock Creek Parkway. Plans call for the expenditure of about \$65 million in creating a unique residential development with its adjunct hotel, office, commercial space, and underground parking for 1,250 cars. The Zoning Commission was requested to waive the present 90-foot height limit and the present limit on allowable number of stories, permitting a maximum height of 130 feet. The proposed plans for the development are drawn to harmonize with those of the projected Cultural Center, which will adjoin it on the south. The area, if developed as planned, is to be called "Water Gate Town."

(continued on page 2)





(Continued from page 1)

All of the space in existing streets within the development area and a third of the spaced owned by the corporation will be devoted to an open park area available to the public. It will be landscaped with reflecting and spray pools and other decorative features.

Action on the Corporation's appeal has been deferred, primarily because of the objection of the chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe, a resident of Georgetown, who believes that all of the land should be reserved for use as a public park.

All three of the Washington daily newspapers, seldom in agreement on any public question, have endorsed the proposed development editorially. We quote briefly from the News, which summarizes the position expressed in the Post and the Evening Star.

The land is owned by Societa Generale Immobiliare of Rome, a publicly owned company which bought it for cash.

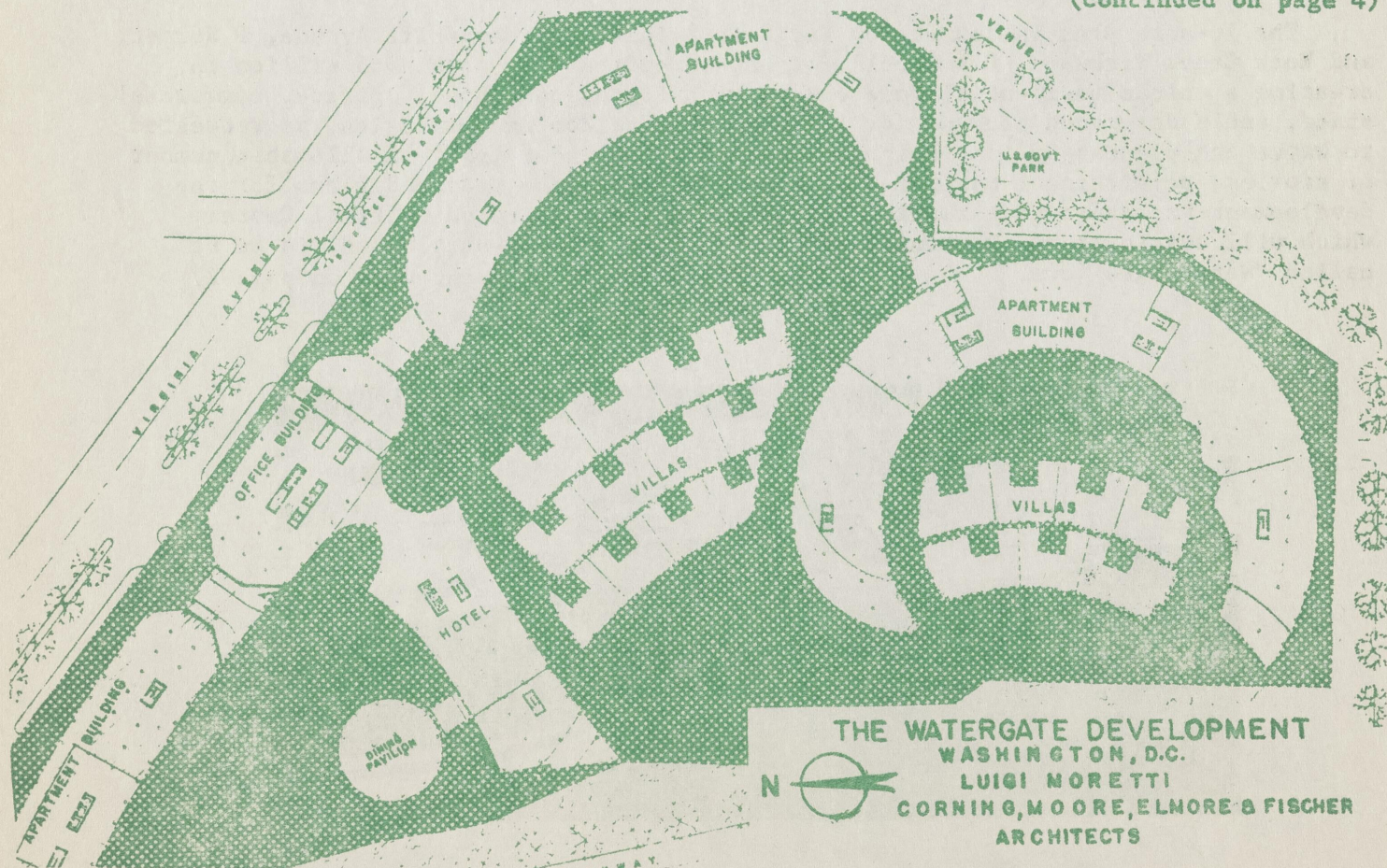
The construction will be financed entirely by private capital. No Government help is asked.

Only 45 percent of the 10-acre tract will be covered by buildings -- and these will be constructed on columns, or stilts, permitting a clear view across the river from the ground.

The entire area will be closed to surface traffic and opened to pedestrians -- those who live there and everybody else as well. Underground parking will be provided for at least 1250 cars.

The buildings, themselves, have been designed to complement the proposed National Cultural Center which -- if it's ever built -- will be built next door.

(continued on page 4)





### AS OTHERS SEE US

The Herald-Leader of Lexington, Kentucky, recently sent a staff writer, Bettye Lee Mastin, to Washington to collect material about the District's renovation of areas similar to many in downtown Lexington. One of the articles she wrote contained some comments on developments in Foggy Bottom. Rufus Lisle's folks in Lexington, his home town, sent him the clipping. The Foggy Bottom references follow.

What sparks renovation? Profit has done it in Foggy Bottom, a low-lying district eight blocks west of the White House and within walking distance of the new State Department.

Changes in Foggy Bottom are more startling than those in Washington's Georgetown area, although the older section of Georgetown is considered the nation's first and finest to be renovated by private initiative. Its renovation got under way 25 years ago; rebirth of Foggy Bottom is going on now.

Before renovation, Foggy Bottom's slums were, if anything, worse than those in Georgetown. The 1950 census showed that Foggy Bottom had an average income per household of only \$2,000. Eighty percent of the houses were substandard. Despite the fine location, houses sold for from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Drive these same streets today and you see many squares that look like Georgetown. Renovated brick and clapboard houses have the same colorful paint combination: colonial buff or white with dark shutters for some houses; gayer shades of yellow,



aqua, green or pink with white shutters for others. Carriage lights gleam at Federal-style entrances. There is always a rear garden even if it is only a few feet of brick paving with pocket for flowers.

Unlike Georgetown, a contemporary-style apartment building may tower nearby. Foggy Bottom has no "Georgetown Act" requiring review of renovation and new construction. Building styles have been unrestricted. The effect isn't unpleasant. Even district planners think that the area has for the most part been well developed, although they say they would have left space for parks.

"Everyone gains from all this," explained William Press, executive vice president of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade. "A city's salvation lies in keeping its taxpayers. Any town is in trouble when its solid citizens move to the suburbs, leaving old neighborhoods to become slums breeding crime and de-

(continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 2)

The fact that the public doesn't own the land -- and that the chances Congress would ever appropriate the money to buy it and improve it are dim at best -- apparently didn't occur to Mrs. Rowe.

The project will turn a piece of city wasteland into a complex of interesting buildings which should bring the District more than \$1 million a year in real estate taxes alone. That it also will stimulate the economy of Downtown Washington and make this town a pleasanter one in which to live seems obvious.

We can hardly afford to trifle with a solid plan for the practical use of city land.

\*\*\*\*\*

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(Continued from page 3)

linquency."

Press noted that by 1980 Washington is expected to have three and one-half million people, almost four and one-half times the present population.

"We expect the percentage of older people to increase," he said, "close-in houses appeal to them. They want to be near shops and doctors. They want more than an apartment, but they don't want grass to cut or snow to shovel."

Not just the old are attracted by renovation. Foggy Bottom's convenient location means that State Department employees can walk to and from work and come home to lunch.

"It's even beginning to look good to me," explained a youthful urban renewal executive. "I spend 45 minutes commuting each way, but even that is getting to seem too long."

\*\*\*\*\*

Betty Harrison, 914½ 25th, spent Christmas with friends in Arlington and New Year's in New York with Judy and Bill Chaplinsky, frequent visitors to Foggy Bottom.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Marcia Martin, who is in the Foreign Service and who bought her place at 908 25th in January 1959, is now back in the States enjoying living in it for the first time. Her last assignment was in Naples, where she served as Vice-Consul. She had earlier assignments in Japan and Guatemala.

\*\*\*\*\*



## ASSOCIATION NEWS


By Catherine Stokes, Secretary

September 25, 1961. The first meeting of the Association for the 1961-1962 year was primarily a business meeting and was well-attended by an enthusiastic membership. The program included a welcoming address by the new President, Mr. Thomas F. Robertson; a report by Charley Rogers, Editor of The Foggy Bottom News; a brief summary of past activities of the Association by Herbert Socks, a former President; discussion of the contemplated road network of the West Leg of the Inner Loop and its effect on the area; reconstruction of damaged sidewalks; claims of property owners resulting from damage caused by construction of the Slash Run Sewer Project; and traffic problems in the area.

October 16, 1961. An over-flow crowd came to view the display of two large working models of the complicated network of roads and interchanges of the Roosevelt Bridge and Cultural Center areas and the West Leg of the Inner Loop. Mr. Al Grant, of the Office of Planning and Programming of the D. C. Department of Highways and Traffic, explained in detail the models and charts on display, and answered many questions raised by persons present at the meeting. Representatives of the Island Vista Corporation, prospective developers of the proposed Watergate Development on the site occupied by the old Washington Gas Company, also displayed a model and showed color slides of their proposed project. The Association passed a motion authorizing a representative of the Association to attend the Zoning Hearing in the District Building and on behalf of the Association to take the position of "not opposing" the Island Vista Corporation's zoning appeal to change the area from R-5 D to SP.

November 20, 1961. Capt. Raymond Pyles, Commanding Officer of the Third Precinct, Metropolitan Police Department, was a guest at the meeting and introduced the main speaker of the evening, Capt. James F. Sartain of the Detective Bureau. Captain Sartain discussed housebreakings and burglaries, and gave his audience valuable suggestions with respect to safety precautions with special emphasis on types of locks for windows and doors for best protection. Mr. Tom Robertson announced that, because of changes in his employment status, it might be necessary for him to resign as President of the Association.

December 18, 1961. The Foggy Bottom Chamber Music Group, composed of Bernard Mason, violin; Ned Spindel, viola; Allen Dittman, flute; Joel Wheeler, recorder, and  
(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5)

Charlotte Eisler, harpsichord, presented a delightful program of 18th Century music of Scarlatti, Telemann, and Bach.

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## PROFILE OF OUR PRESIDENT

Elected last June to serve as President of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association during the 1961-62 term, is Tom Robertson, almost a newcomer to our neighborhood. He and Susie Robertson, his vivacious wife, bought their house at 909 26th Street and moved into it in October 1959. Michael, the youngest of the three Robertson children, is now with them, though in 1959 he was in the Armed Services. John, the eldest, is married and also lives in the District. John has one child. Jill, the Robertson daughter, is Mrs. John D. Quick, of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

The American Trucking Associations, Inc., until recently his employer, gave us a rundown on Tom's background. His full name is Thomas F. Robertson. Tom was born in Stirling, Scotland, on New Year's Day in 1905. His father was killed in action in France in World War I. Tom left school on his 14th birthday to join the British Army and remained in the military service for almost 19 years. He spent the first 10 years in the Corps of Royal Engineers and was in the Army Physical Education Staff for the rest of his time in service. When he left military service, he was a warrant officer and chief instructor at the Army School of Physical Education.

Tom returned to civilian life in 1937 and came to the United States to become director of physical education at Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pa. He has lived in the United States since that time. Remaining at the Academy for 10 years, the last 4 as commandant of cadets, he left the school in 1947 to become special field representative for the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. Later he became director of community relations, a job which consisted of acquainting the member truck operators with the part they can play in social and civic activities of their communities. He gave talks on matters concerning the trucking industry before such groups as community service clubs and local chambers of commerce.

Tom remained with the Pennsylvania organization until he took his position with the Trucking Associations in Washington, 7 years ago last June.

Following are the officers of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association:  
President, Thomas F. Robertson, 909 26th Street.  
Vice President, Harriett Gruger, 2530 Eye Street.  
Secretary, Catherine Stokes, 2527 Eye Street.  
Treasurer, Bernice Abbot, 2475 Virginia Avenue.  
Members of Executive Committee,  
 Mrs. Lloyd Dutch, 2407 Eye Street;  
 Mr. Charley Rogers, 917 Hughes Mews.

### THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is published from time to time by the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association.

Charley Rogers, Editor - FE 3-3157  
 Audrey Preissler, Art Editor - FE 8-3957  
 Bertrand X. Caudron, Business Manager - FE 7-7272

\*\*\*\*\*

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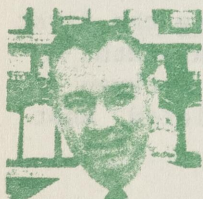
### FOGGY BOTTOM FAMILY OF ARTISTS

Detlev wanted a family of artists. The same was true of Audrey. So it was natural that soon after these young artists met Audrey became Mrs. Detlev Preissler. Today, six years later, they have three little artists -- Karen 4½, Erik 3½, and Kurt who is just 1. All these big and little Preissler artists live in the house-that-Detlev-built. It's a kind of castle-on-the-Potomac, for this brand-new gleaming white Foggy Bottom structure commands a wide expanse of the river up-stream to Key Bridge and above the bridge to the Virginia hills beyond. The postman delivers Preissler mail to 915 26th Street, which of course is the family's Foggy Bottom address.

The artists' studio occupies half the fourth -- and top -- story of their home. The other half of the fourth floor is a roof garden. Detlev, an architect, was building the house from October 1959 until December 1961. He did all of it with his own hands, except for some of the rough labor and such things as plumbing and electric wiring, for which licensed artisans are required by law. During all this period of house-building, Detlev was holding down a full-time job as architect for a large firm. He built his home after hours and on weekends -- with a little assist from Audrey, but not much. Audrey was busy raising the family and doing some commercial art work during whatever spare time she could manage.

Audrey, recently illustrated a book for children, Patrol Boy, by Marjorie Fribourg, a Washington writer. Audrey's drawings comprise a major part of the book which is to be published soon by Robert Luce of this city.

(Continued on page 8)



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(Continued from page 7)

Detlev, who paints as a hobby, describes Audrey's style as "abstract realism." We asked her to illustrate her style with a sketch of her children. On the preceding page, you see Karen watching television after dinner, with Erik in the background, stretched out sound asleep on a couch.

Audrey's ambition is to devote her whole time and talent to painting. She is looking for commissions to do portraits. If you have someone in mind for a subject, give her a ring -- FE 8-3957.

\*\*\*\*\*

Melita Rodeck, the architect, who is also Arts Committee Chairman of the American Association of University Women, entertained the Group at her home, Octagon House, last week. The evening was devoted to a talk by Miss Brokaw on Medieval music with presentation of selections from her record library. One of the highlights the ladies enjoyed most was a recording of a 12th Century "Play of Daniel," by the New York Pro Musica.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Government worker who lives in Foggy Bottom and has to cross 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue on her way to and from work has been wearing a St. Christopher medal recently since our streets have been turned into arterial highways. Medals of St. Christopher, legendary patron saint of travelers, are often displayed above windshields of automobiles and in the cabins of airplanes and ships at sea.

With no red light to stop them, the poor pedestrian who crosses Eye Street is entirely dependent upon the courtesy of motorists and their will to slow down. A Foggy Bottom statistician we know found only three types of motorists who slow down willingly -- police cars, busses, and milk trucks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michel Cieplinski, Deputy Administrator (currently Acting Administrator) of the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, was among the first occupants of Potomac Plaza Terraces. Mr. & Mrs. Cieplinski moved into a sixth floor apartment, which they have leased for a year, on October 3, while workmen were still swarming up and down the corridors getting the building completed. Most of their neighbors postponed moving in until November.

\*\*\*\*\*

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*New Motel for Foggy Bottom*

The article below was written especially for us by Alfred Dapsauski, who is office manager for the Virginia Avenue Company, builder of the motel illustrated above.

That pie wedge of land in the heart of Foggy Bottom, hemmed in by Virginia Avenue, 26th, 27th, and Eye Streets, is being excavated for a 196-unit motor hotel, ten stories high and two basements deep. The motor hotel will incorporate modern designs and improvements -- including air-conditioning, three high-speed elevators, a swimming pool on the roof, guest parking on three levels, gifts shops, and a drug store, a barber shop and a beauty salon, and a travel desk.

The Virginia Avenue Company has leased the motor hotel to the Howard Johnson System which will feature one of its restaurants and gate lodges on the ground level. Howard Johnson operates 630 restaurants and 108 suburban motor lodges across the Nation. The Foggy Bottom structure is one of three tall, in-town lodges recently started by Howard Johnson. The two others are in Cleveland and New York City. Ground for the motor hotel in Foggy Bottom was broken in November. Opening is scheduled for Labor Day weekend this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Angelina Brain, 902 25th, underwent surgery before Christmas and is convalescing at the home of her son in Silver Spring.

\*\*\*\*\*

# FRANK'S

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An antiquary we know pretends to believe the big black truck that is parked in behind the Alamac is Brady's Civil War photographic studio on wheels, now motorized. We made some enquiries and discovered the vehicle belongs to the engineer of Alamac Apartments, Harry Campbell. Harry uses it to carry on a side-line business he has started -- an after-hours moving enterprise, which he hopes eventually to build up to a full-time occupation. He told us that he needs more income all the time, because the Lord keeps sending him children. Mrs. Campbell (Annie Mae) has been presenting him with little tots almost as fast as the Lord allows since they were married: Harry Campbell, Junior, December 9, 1959; Joyce Ann, October 2, 1960; and Deborah Denise, December 7, 1961. If you have any moving you want done after hours, call up Harry at FE 8-7590.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I went back to examine my grassroots," said Inez Pulver (2424 Eye) of her two-week stay in Minnesota visiting her sister, Mrs. Ethel Bradbury, and friends. Inez was born in Nelson, Minn. and spent part of the two weeks there, and part in neighboring Alexandria, and at Lake Carlos and Sullivan Lake -- where "one can watch the moon rise over the water across fields of wild rice." It was Inez's first trip home since 1957.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jane Grey Wheeler no longer looks down upon her neighbors in Hughes Mews, far below, from her apartment perched high above in the Alamac. In fact, Jane has changed her name and moved away. She is now Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer of Foxhall Village. The Pfeiffers, members of All Souls Unitarian Church were married at the church in June by Dr. Duncan Hawlett, the minister. The newlyweds took a trip through West Virginia and Ohio before they settled down into their new home at 1549 44th Street, N. W.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Youngest Foggy Bottom Resident that we know is Jessica Mande Sloane. After her birth in George Washington Hospital on October 20, she moved in with the Martin E. and Glenda G. Sloanes, her parents, who live in Hughes Mews.

\*\*\*\*\*

Newcomers. Members of the new household at 815 25th Street are John C. Lyons, lawyer, who is in the Justice Department; and Jack H. Olender, a lawyer, in private practice. Velveteen, a 3-year-old girl (long-haired Dachshund type) lives with them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rosa and Harvey Rutledge are coming along nicely with their remodeling at 917 25th, Harvey doing the work himself. Rosa is a long-time resident of Foggy Bottom, having grown up here. She works at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Harvey is with the Department of the Army at Campbell Station, Virginia. Sometimes the Rutledges receive mail addressed to 917 Hughes Mews, the home of the FBN editor, who receives it by special delivery from Harvey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Bobbitt and Sam Harrington, 904 25th, remained in the area during the holidays, Jack in Foggy Bottom and Sam with his sister Margaret in Alexandria.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## PIP HAS HISTORIC HOUSE

Priscilla House ("Pip") Johnson, our Inner Loop victim from K Street, N. W., is up to her eyeballs redoing her new home near Strafford in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The house was built in 1890 by a San Franciscan named George Moore. He was an architect, says Pip, "but would you believe it, there isn't a straight line in the place." The house can be found with the assistance of an Indian guide and a couple of bloodhounds, but lacking those, it is recommended that visitors approaching the place seek directions for the "Dollhouse." Unfortunately, the previous owners were named Doll. "Perhaps in 35 years, it will be known as the Johnson house," allowed Pip with resignation.

Pip's new home is deep in the so-called historyland of the Northern neck of Virginia. The area abounds with birthplaces of various Washington's (including George's) and their estates. Pip's house sits on a point of land that was part of the Nominy plantation and has a magnificent view on three sides over Potomac River inlets. The living room window faces on Crazy Snake Island about which Pip dug out the following history from a pamphlet about the area:

On the point of Nominy Plantation, the Potomac Indian had a village in 1608 and on Snake Island (part of Bushfield estate) the Princess Pocahontas, while on a visit in 1611, was betrayed into the hands of Sir Samuel Argall for a copper kettle. Crazy Snake, her lover, whom King Powhatan had appointed to guard her on the visit, when he learned of the betrayal, drowned himself. The island since has borne his name.

Nominy was an early scene of dangerous living. George Washington, then 17, noted in his meticulously kept account books the following: "To cash won at Whist down at Nominee 7/6." The danger is of a different nature now. If you should visit Pip, your chances of being routed out of bed at 6 a.m. to start on the project of the day are excellent. Visitors, BEWARE!

\*\*\*\*\*

Washington Circle Underpass is scheduled for completion by the end of summer, according to Gene Sobolew, Engineer of Bridge Construction for the District Government. Construction on the underpass itself is under contract to be completed by mid-July. Meantime the paving contract will be let, and the estimate for the opening to traffic of K Street through the underpass is late summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

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POTOMAC  
PLAZA

FE 7-5067

2475 VIRGINIA AVENUE N.W.

Jay and Ginny Goldstein are moving from Hughes Mews across the alley to Jay's old house, 916 25th Street, as soon as settlement is completed. Reason, the arrival of young Timothy Mayo, who will be living with the Goldsteins. Timi is now enrolled in Western High School and has become a great favorite with Oliver and Bibi -- Jay's cat and Ginny's dog. The new owners of the house in Hughes Mews are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Eason. Mr. Eason is an architect with a local firm.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Daniel Scanlons, with daughters Mary Gay and Lizzie, have been residing at 920 25th Street since last summer. Daniel is with the Veterans Administration Management Intern Program. The Scanlons spent the Christmas holidays in Syracuse, N. Y., with her family, and in Watertown, N. Y., with his. Her niece, Pam McCarthy, came back to Washington with them for a week's visit and had the excitement of seeing President Kennedy at St. Stephen's Church when she went there to mass.

\*\*\*\*\*

Young Miss Cecilia McLaughlin, 910 25th, had a week's visit between Christmas and New Year's with her grandparents in Philadelphia. After New Year's Mamma Fran also visited with the elder McLaughlins while Papa Joe attended a Polaroid sales meeting at the Concord Hotel, Monticello, N. Y. Ceci is now looking forward to a little brother or sister.

\*\*\*\*\*

Music lovers, who missed hearing the concert given at our December meeting by the Foggy Bottom Chamber Music Group, may attend a similar recital to be presented by the group Sunday, January 28, at 8 p.m., for the Ethical Society of Washington, 1822 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

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## FOGGY BOTTOM'S NEIGHBORHOOD

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A T A R E N A S T A G E

THE MOON IN THE YELLOW RIVER by Denis Johnston, one of Ireland's leading playwrights, opens at Washington's Arena Stage on Tuesday, January 23rd, as the fourth production of the current season. Produced first in Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1931, by the Theatre Guild in 1932, and off-Broadway last season, Washington sees this rambunctious, absorbing and eloquent play for the first time. The Moon in the Yellow River will play at Arena Stage through February 18.

THE LITTLEST CIRCUS, a magic musical carnival for children, will be presented in three special performances at Arena on February 24 & 25. It will mark the first appearance of this group in the city.

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O U R N E W B U S I N E S S M A N A G E R

Bertrand X. Caudron, a member of our Association, has been named Business Manager of the Foggy Bottom News on January 6, 1962.

Bertrand is also the sales manager of Stencil Creators, Inc., of 2200 Wisconsin Avenue. We commend you the services of his organization which has prepared and duplicated this issue of the Foggy Bottom News. Of special interest to our members who have mimeograph machines will be the fact that this company makes electronic stencils. This type of stencil will enable you to duplicate a wide range of materials on your equipment, i.e. this paper. Even if you do not have a mimeograph, their services can help you in the preparation and duplication of forms, charts, handbills, etc... For more information about their services call Mr. Caudron at FE 7-7272 during afternoons and evenings.

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George and Gari O'Donnell have agreed to take care of our circulation problems -- together, they are our Circulation Manager. They live at 2503 Eye, and their telephone number is FE 8-9037.

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# SHOULD FOGGY BOTTOM HAVE FALLOUT SHELTER

HEAR GEORGE R. RODERICK  
OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE

JANUARY MEETING

FOGGY BOTTOM RESTORATION ASSOCIATION

MONDAY JANUARY 29, 8:30 P.M.

PILLSBURY HALL 2430 'K' STREET N.W.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION . . .

Every resident householder in Foggy Bottom whether owner or renter, is eligible for memberships in the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association. If you have intended to join and put it off till now, you get a bargain rate, for beginning at the half-year, dues are reduced one-half for new members.

The half-price dues for half-year new members who are property owners (own their home - or an equity in one!) are \$2.50; for renters, \$1.25. Membership is by household - a family to a house or an apartment, or shared house or apartment. You may pay Bernice Abbott, Treasurer, at the meeting of the association on monday, or send her a check. Her address is 2475 Virginia Avenue, N. W. Please include your address and telephone number.